

## OAKLAND DIGEST

Oakland Digest provides a summary of headline stories from around the county during the week leading up to July 8.

## BINGHAM FARMS

Council president dies suddenly: The sudden death, July 2 of Bingham Farms council president John Ogurek shocked the community. Friends and family said he did everything doctors asked since suffering a stroke a couple of years ago, but it wasn't enough to overcome his health difficulties. Ogurek, a lawyer who served in city government since 1985, apparently suffered a heart attack or another stroke.

## CLARKSTON

Dive in: The Oakland County Health Department says it's fine to swim at the public beaches in Clarkston, as well as Independence and Springfield townships. The department said the waters, including Deer Lake, Greens Lake, and Hidden Springs, show consistently low levels of bacteria this year, and not one of the public beaches has been closed.

## FARMINGTON HILLS

No smoking: Minors caught smoking in the city of Farmington will face city penalties under an ordinance passed July 6 by the city council. The ordinance will require young offenders to appear in Family Court, which will impose \$50 fines for first-time offenders, \$150 and \$200 fines for second and third offenders. It also will require attendance at health and risk-reduction educational programs.

## LAKE ORION

In the mood: The Nightlights Big Band will recreate an era of popular music still dear to many — and increasingly popular with younger crowds — during a performance in Civic Center Park on July 14. The 17-piece band plus singer will perform a mix of swing and jazz, featuring the sounds of Tommy Dorsey and Glenn Miller. The concert begins

at 7:30 p.m. and is free.

## ROCHESTER

Calling all candidates: Candidates for the state house in the 42nd and 45th districts and the state senate 18th District are expected to participate in a candidate forum at 7:30 p.m. Thursday, July 16 in the auditorium of the Rochester Hills City Hall. The city hall is located at 1000 Rochester Hills Drive, south of Avon and west of Livernois. The forum is sponsored by the League of Women Voters.

## SOUTHFIELD

Blood drive: Plans are under way for a blood drive to help Jack Allen Pickering, a retired Southfield police officer and now a Providence Hospital security guard, following a July 2 motorcycle accident that left him critically injured. Those interested in donating blood should call the Red Cross Directed Donor appointment center at (313) 494-2709.

## TROY

A big honor: The Troy-based Quartan Group-Publishers, Inc. was informed recently that it has been selected by the PGA of America to publish the Official Ryder Cup Journal for the 33rd Ryder Cup golf matches. The Quartan Group was selected over larger companies, such as the New York Times and Times Mirror to handle publishing duties from cover to cover.

## WALLED LAKE

Mentoring youths: Lakes Area Youth Assistance is in need of more mentors for the People Listening Understanding and Sharing program, which pairs young people aged 5-17 with adults over the age of 21. Applicants are screened and trained prior to placement, and additional training and consultation is provided throughout the year-long match period. For more information, call (248) 960-8521.



Smashing support: Singer Billy Corgan of the rock band Smashing Pumpkins explains the band's new charity tour during a press conference at the HAVEN shelter Wednesday. The band played a benefit concert for the Oakland County-based shelter that evening at the State Theatre in Detroit. HAVEN Executive Director Hedy Nuriel (right) said the concert would raise about \$100,000 for the shelter.

## Great Pumpkins!

### Rock band assists HAVEN shelter

A visit this week from the rock band Smashing Pumpkins left the staff and residents of HAVEN crisis shelter feeling a little overwhelmed — and extremely grateful.

The internationally-popular band visited the Oakland County shelter Wednesday afternoon, before playing a benefit concert for HAVEN that evening at the State Theatre in Detroit.

Wednesday's concert raised more than \$100,000 for HAVEN, an Oakland County family shelter.

"I can't tell you how grateful HAVEN is," said Pam Berklich, president of the HAVEN board of directors. "To have these angelic people come in and donate six figures... it's very unusual."

It was the fifth concert in a 14-stop tour in which the band is donating 100 percent of ticket sales to different charities — an unusual move in the music industry.

Members of the alternative

rock band said they wanted to visit HAVEN in order to get a chance to meet the people they are helping. During their stop, the band took a tour of the facility, then met with about 30 women and children who are currently staying at the shelter.

CD jackets were signed, questions were answered — and there were even a few hugs.

Angie Goryl, 22, has been staying at the shelter for two weeks. She showed off a personalized message, on a piece of scrap paper, that singer Billy Corgan wrote for her brother.

"My brother's in the hospital getting chemotherapy right now. He isn't going to believe this," Goryl said, shaking her head in amazement. "He's a huge Smashing Pumpkins fan."

Berklich said the kids especially were "ecstatic" about the visit.

"It's a big event for any kid, let alone these special kids," Berklich said.

Band members Corgan, D'arcy, and James Iha then sat down to answer questions from the media. To protect the shelter's anonymity, the event was not open to the public.

Asked how the idea for the tour was conceived, Corgan said they wanted to do something "radical" this year, to mark their 10th anniversary.

A lot of bands do benefit concerts, he said, but it's unusual to donate 100 percent of ticket sales. It means the band is paying for all expenses, such as facilities, lighting and sound, out of their own pockets.

Corgan said they chose organizations that serve children as a theme, in the hopes it would gain national attention and encourage other people to get involved in charities.

"This way, nationally it will add up to a picture that says, 'This is what we think is important,'" Corgan said. "We want it to gain momentum."

■ 'They idolize us, but these are the real heroes in the world.'

Billy Corgan  
—rock musician

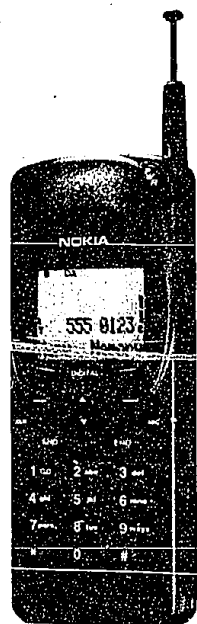
While HAVEN's staff felt overwhelmed by the attention, the band members themselves shared some of those feelings.

"Just going to these places, these sites — it's very overwhelming," D'arcy said.

Corgan added: "They idolize us, but these are the real heroes in the world. These people who are willing to put their heart and soul on the line — it's very humbling."

Founded in 1975, HAVEN provides emergency shelter, counseling and therapy for victims of domestic violence and their children, as well as counseling for the abuser and preventative education in schools. It has an annual budget of about \$2.6 million.

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